

**ROUNDTOP MOUNTAIN
CLASS II NATURAL-SCIENTIFIC STATE NATURAL AREA**

COUNTY:	Sevier	ACREAGE:	237
7.5° QUADRANGLE:	Wear Cove	OWNERSHIP:	National Park Service
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE:	Unaka Mountains	YEAR DESIGNATED:	1974

DESCRIPTION:

Roundtop Mountain is a 237-acre natural area located in the southwest corner of Sevier County west of Wears Cove Gap and east-northeast of Townsend. It forms a section of the northwest boundary of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park (GSMNP). When it was originally acquired, Roundtop Mountain was contiguous with approximately 1 mile of GSMNP boundary. It was acquired by the State in 1975 to protect this area of the Unaka Mountain range as a state natural area. At the time of its acquisition, and even today, this area remains highly susceptible to development, particularly from summer homes and vacation rentals. While the State initially planned to manage this area, it was soon determined that Roundtop Mountain could best be managed by the National Park Service as a part of the GSMNP.

The natural area occurs in the Unaka Mountains between 1,800 and 3,000 feet in elevation. This is one of the least visited areas in the Smokies and is very peaceful. While there is no trail access into the 237 acres that was designated, hikers can climb through a dry oak-pine forest on a south-facing slope following the Roundtop trail. The trail is adjacent to the designated area. Common plant species in the understory here include mountain laurel, dogwood and American holly. In the spring, flame azalea provides much seasonal color. Table mountain pine and pitch pine are dominant trees found along the ridge tops. Elements of mixed mesophytic forest can be found in the moist and protected coves. Views from the Roundtop trail are excellent.

SITE MANAGEMENT:

National Park Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738, (865) 436-1261. Division of Natural Heritage, 401 Church Street, 14th Floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447, (615) 532-0431.

PUBLIC ACCESS:

Public access is allowed; limited parking is provided. The Roundtop trail can be accessed from a small two car parking area near the park boundary or by walking the road from Metcalf Bottoms parking area.

DIRECTIONS:

On U.S. Highway 321 in Wear Valley, which is southwest of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, turn onto Lyon Spring Road going toward the Little River Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Roundtop Mountain will be visible on your right going up Lyon Spring Road past the small parking pull off that is near the park boundary line.

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